

US Serial No. 10/730,590

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REMARKS

Applicant's amendment filed on June 22, 2005 was entered. Claims 1-24 are pending.

In the Detailed Action, Claims 4-7, 9, 10, 12 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Pre-Grant publication No. 2002/0121786 to Meinke. Claims 1, 2, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meinke. Claims 9, 10 and 12 actually depend from claim 1 and therefore a 102 rejection on the dependent claims and a 103 rejection on the independent claim appears to be an oversight. Regardless, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 13-14, 16-19 are canceled.

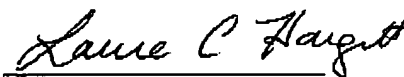
Claims 8, 11 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any necessary supporting intervening claims. But claim 8 is already in independent form as it was amended to incorporate the limitations of its intervening claims in the February 11, 2005 amendment. The undersigned contacted the examiner on several occasions requesting a clarification on the office action, but did not receive a response. Applicant believes that claim 8 is therefore in condition for allowance. Claims 11 and 15 have been amended and rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Claim 12 is amended to depend on claim 11 instead of claim 9.

Claims 20-24 are allowed.

Claim 3 was not addressed in the Detailed Action. To further prosecution, claim 3 is canceled herein but Applicant requests clarification if the claim is allowable.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in a condition for allowance, which allowance is solicited. Please charge any fees that may be due to Deposit Account 07-0960.

Respectfully submitted,



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LCH:plul